Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 29 prepared from autologous cells.

Claims 7 - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein step (a) comprises the use of an enzyme solution to chemically dissociate the cells from cellular stratum ~~the physical and or chemical dissociating means comprises a chemical dissociating means comprising an enzyme solution~~.

15. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 14 wherein the enzyme solution comprises an enzyme selected from the group consisting of trypsin, trypsin-EDTA, dispase, collagenase, thermolysin, pronase, hyaluronidase, pancreatin, elastase and papain.

16. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 15 wherein the enzyme solution comprises between about 5% and about 0.1% trypsin per volume of solution.

17. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 16 wherein the enzyme solution comprises between about 2.5% and about 0.25% trypsin per volume of solution.

18. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 14 wherein the enzyme solution is heated.

19. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 18 wherein the enzyme solution is heated to a temperature between about 30 degrees Celsius and about 37 degrees Celsius.

20. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 14 wherein the enzyme solution is calcium and magnesium free.

21. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 20 wherein the enzyme solution is provided in a calcium and magnesium ion free phosphate buffered saline.

22. (Currently amended) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein the tissue sample comprises a tissue biopsy isolated ~~derived~~ from skin.

23. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein the nutrient solution comprises a salt solution.

24. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein the nutrient solution comprises physiological saline.

25. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein the filtering step comprises the use of a filter size between about 50μm and about 200μm.

26. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 25 wherein the filtering step comprises the use of a filter size between about 75μm and about 150μm.

Claims 27 - 28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A cell suspension produced according to a method comprising the steps of:

(a) physically and/or chemically dissociating cellular stratum in a tissue sample, to provide cells suitable for grafting to a patient;

(b) harvesting the cells in the presence of a nutrient solution, the harvested cells having the potential to include cell conglomerates; and

(c) filtering the cells in nutrient solution to remove cell conglomerates, wherein the resulting cell suspension is free of xenogenic serum and of cell conglomerates, the cells remain viable, and the suspension is suitable for direct application to a region on a patient undergoing tissue grafting.

30. (Currently amended) A cell suspension according to claim 29, wherein the suspension is produced according to a method comprising the steps of:

(a) subjecting a tissue sample including cells suitable for grafting to a patient, to a heated enzyme solution that dissociates ~~capable of dissociating~~ cellular stratum in the tissue sample, the heated enzyme solution being calcium and magnesium free and comprising an enzyme selected from the group consisting of trypsin, trypsin-EDTA, dispase, collagenase, thermolysin, pronase, hyaluronidase, pancreatin, elastase and papain;

(b) removing the tissue sample from the dissociating means used in step (a) and harvesting viable cells in the presence of a nutrient solution ~~cells from the tissue sample,~~ in order to form a cellular suspension that comprises cells suitable for grafting on to a patient wherein the nutrient solution comprises physiological

saline and is (i) free of xenogenic serum, (ii) ~~capable of~~ suitable for maintaining the viability of the cells until applied to a patient and (iii) ~~is~~ suitable for direct application to a region on a patient undergoing tissue grafting; and

(c) filtering the cellular suspension produced according to step (b) with a filter size between about 50μm and about 200μm to remove large cellular conglomerates.

31. (Currently amended) A cell suspension according to claim 29, the suspension being produced according a method comprising the steps of:

(a) subjecting a tissue sample including cells suitable for grafting to a patient, to a heated enzyme solution ~~capable of dissociating~~ to dissociate cellular stratum in the tissue sample, the heated enzyme solution comprising a calcium and magnesium ion free phosphate buffered saline and between about between about 5% and about 0.1% trypsin per volume of solution, the heated enzyme solution being heated to a temperature between about 30 degrees Celsius and about 37 degrees Celsius;

(b) removing the tissue sample from the dissociating means used in step (a) and harvesting viable cells in the presence of a nutrient solution ~~cells from the tissue sample,~~ in order to form a cellular suspsension that comprises cells suitable for grafting on to a patient wherein the nutrient solution comprises physiological saline and is (i) free of xenogenic serum, (ii) ~~capable of~~ suitable for maintaining the viability of the cells until applied to a patient and (iii) ~~is~~ suitable for direct application to a region on a patient undergoing tissue grafting; and

(c) filtering the cellular suspension produced according to step (b) with a filter size between about 75μm and about 150μm to remove large cellular conglomerates.

32. (New) A first intermediate cell suspension for use in a method to provide cells to a patient undergoing skin grafting, the first intermediate suspension comprising:

(a) an autologous skin tissue sample in a heated enzyme solution under conditions suitable to dissociate autologous skin cells from cellular stratum, the solution comprising a calcium and magnesium ion free phosphate buffered saline and between about between about 5% and about 0.1% trypsin per volume of solution, the heated enzyme solution being heated to a temperature between about 30 degrees Celsius and about 37 degrees Celsius;

(b) whereby the cells dissociated from the cellular stratum in step (a) can be harvested in the presence of a nutrient solution to provide cells suitable for grafting on to a patient wherein the nutrient solution comprises physiological saline and is (i) free of xenogenic serum, (ii) capable of maintaining the viability of the cells until applied to a patient and (iii) suitable for direct application to a region on a patient undergoing tissue grafting; and whereby

(c) the harvested cell suspension produced according to step (b) can be filtered with a filter size between about 75μm and about 150μm to remove large cellular conglomerates.

33. (New) A second intermediate cell suspension for use in a method to provide cells to a patient undergoing skin grafting, the second intermediate suspension comprising:

(a) cells obtained from an autologous skin tissue sample that have been dissociated from cellular stratum by having been subjected to a heated enzyme solution comprising a calcium and magnesium ion free phosphate buffered saline and between about between about 5% and about 0.1% trypsin per volume of solution, the heated enzyme solution having been heated to a temperature between about 30 degrees Celsius and about 37 degrees Celsius;

(b) whereby the cells obtained in step (a) have been harvested by, and are present in, a nutrient solution that comprises physiological saline and is (i) free of xenogenic serum, (ii) capable of maintaining the viability of the cells until applied to a patient and (iii) is suitable for direct application to a region on a patient undergoing tissue grafting; and whereby

(c) the harvested cell suspension produced according to step (b) can be filtered with a filter size between about 75μm and about 150μm to remove large cellular conglomerates.